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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/827,919	Applicant(s) OHMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner Andrew Graham	Art Unit 2644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,8,9,18,19 and 21-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4,6,7,10-17 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

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DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. Information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 4/9/01, 11/5/04, and 12/16/04 were filed before the mailing date of the first action on the merits. The submissions are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statements have been considered by the examiner.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 26 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- in line 26 of page 71, the 'constructing means' lacks antecedent basis so far as the 'means' were previously referred to as a 'unit' in line 20 of page 69

. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 5, 9, 18-19, 21-25, 28-29, 32-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Treyz et al (USPN 6526335 B1), hereafter "Treyz", in view of Van Der Meulen (USPN 6563769).

Treyz discloses a personal computer system for an automobile. Such a system comprises a car-mounted computer system that is able to interface to a variety of auxiliary sources and systems (Figure 1). One such source is a portable computer system for the transfer of audio files.

Specifically regarding Claim 1, Treyz teaches:

An audio system (14) that reproduces contents information as sound (from 160,246) in a vehicle (12) (Figure 1) (col. 10, lines 23-38; col. 15, lines 20-27; col. 62, lines 18-42); comprising:

portable audio apparatus (as 'user device', such as 16 or 18) carried by a passenger of said vehicle (12) (apparatuses, col. 10, lines 25-38; used in interior of vehicle, col. 11, lines 21-37; col. 79, lines 1-2 denote user devices, which are same device type-as 16,18);

an audio apparatus (computer 14) mounted in said vehicle (12) (col. 13, lines 12-37);

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wherein said portable audio apparatus (personal computer, handheld computing device, wrist device, etc., such as 16 or 18) (col. 79, lines 1-2; col. 88, lines 39-43) comprises:

a contents information storage medium for retaining contents information (location of copy of audio file in user device after move, col. 79, lines 11-24); and

wherein said audio apparatus (14) comprises:

a reception module (such as 306) for receiving said contents information (such as part of mp3 file)... by means of radio communication (col. 19, lines 27-43; col. 79, lines 7-10 and 35-62; col. 88, lines 40-43);

a storage medium for storing said contents information received by said reception module (circuitry 80 where various audio files are stored, such as 82, col. 13, lines 38-44; col. 79, lines 79, lines 18-20);

a control unit (72) for reproducing said contents information stored (from mp3 file, for example) in said storage medium (80) and outputting the reproduced information as sound from speakers (from 160,246) mounted in said vehicle (12) (col. 13, lines 39-51; col. 15, lines 19-26; col. 38, lines 62-63; col. 80, lines 15-17).

While Treyz discloses that the transfer of audio files is 'between' the computer (14) and the user device (col. 78, line 67), that the computer (14) and user device are in local RF communication (col. 79, lines 7-10), and that the computer (14) may receive or download digital audio files (col. 79, lines 35-36), the illustrative

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embodiment teaches the transfer of digital audio files from the computer (14) to the user device (such as 16,18) through the RF communication means (col. 79, lines 7-24). Thus, while the opposite direction of transfer (from the user device to the computer 14) is arguably inferred or at least implicit, based on contextual teachings such as the bidirectional data transfer of the wireless communication means (col. 12, lines 24-26; col. 19, lines 40-43), Treyz does not clearly teach the transfer of such audio files from the user device to the computer 14. It is further noted that the circuitry used for downloading data through a local wireless link 308 from a user device 298 teaches a basic 'reception module' for the computer (14) and a basic 'transmission module' for the user device (298) (col. 19, lines 27-43), even though the use of 'transmitting' and 'receiving' the 'contents information' is not taught.

As such, Treyz is not considered herein to clearly teach:

said portable audio apparatus comprises a transmission module for transmitting said contents information to said audio apparatus at least by means of radio communication

said audio apparatus comprises a reception module for receiving said contents information from said portable audio apparatus by means of radio communication

Van Der Meulen discloses a collection management system that may archive and catalog a plurality of recordings from independent media and media playback devices.

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Specifically regarding **Claim 1**, Van Der Meulen teaches, or in view of the analogous teachings of Treyz cited above, at least suggests:

said portable audio apparatus (user devices, such as 16,18,298 of Treyz in view of playback devices 130 of Van Der Meulen, col. 3, lines 16-18 and col. 5, lines 3-14) comprises a transmission module (circuitry on 130 of Van Der Meulen that outputs signal to receiver 320, particularly via the external connection 220, col. 5, lines 12-14; also/alternatively, circuitry or means for connecting 130 to network 100, col. 2, line 59 - col. 3, line 18; both of these means of Van Der Meulen taken in view of means in Treyz for user devices 298 to form a wireless link 308 by which information may be downloaded to computer 14) for transmitting said contents information (col. 5, lines 14-26) to said audio apparatus (collection manager 150 with hard disc drive 110 of Van Der Meulen, col. 3, lines 10-16 and 52-67 and col. 7, lines 9-10 in view of computer 14 with hard disc drive 82 of Treyz, col. 13, lines 37-43) at least by means of radio communication (network 100 of external connection of Van Der Meulen, col. 2, line 59-col. 3, lines 17 and col. 5, line 12-14)

said audio apparatus (collection manager 150 with hard disc drive 110 of Van Der Meulen, col. 3, lines 10-16 and 52-67 and col. 7, lines 9-10 in view of computer 14 with hard disc drive 82 of Treyz, col. 13, lines 37-43) comprises a reception module (circuit or means for connection to network 100, such as receiver 320, in Van Der Meulen, col. 2, lines 63-67 and col. 5, lines 14-29; each in view of

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communications circuitry 306 of computer 14 of Treyz for forming wireless link 308 by which information may be downloaded, col. 19, lines 27-43) for receiving said contents information (311 of Van Der Meulen in view of audio clips or mp3 files of Treyz) from said portable audio apparatus (130 of Van Der Meulen or user device 16,18,298 of Treyz) by means of radio communication (reception of content material in Van Der Meulen, particularly from external connection, col. 5, lines 5-26, in view of communication via local wireless link, such as RF link, and download of digital audio files to computer 14 in Treyz, col. 19, lines 27-43 and col. 79, lines 5-36)

To one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to utilize the computer 14 of Treyz to download digital audio files from the user devices through the RF communication link, such as is done in the transmission of media information from player devices 130 to the collection manager 150,110 in the system of Van Der Meulen. The motivation behind such a modification would have been that such an archiving arrangement would have enabled playback of digital audio files from the computer 14 in lieu of from the original contents source of the user device. Such an arrangement, as noted by Van Der Meulen, would have provided a safeguard against the loss of the original medium, allowing the audio information on the original medium to yet be retained in the form of the copy on the computer (14) of Treyz. Such an arrangement would have also avoided delays related to the selection and retrieval of the recording from the original playback device, as is also noted by Van

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Der Meulen. Such a centralized archiving and cataloguing system would have also facilitated the automatic playback of selected recordings from a plurality of playback or storage devices according to criteria such as genre.

Regarding **Claim 5**, Treyz particularly teaches that the local wireless communication may be performed according to the Bluetooth specification (col. 11, lines 29-31). The components involved with the Bluetooth protocol in view of the further teachings of Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen teach or at least suggest:

said audio apparatus (14 of Treyz in view of 150/110 or 200 of Van Der Meulen) identifies (via authentication, pages 194-195 of BLUETOOTH protocol) said portable audio apparatus (user devices, such as 16,18,298, col. 19, lines 13-44 and col. 79, lines 1-3 of Treyz in view of playback devices, 120,130 if Van Der Meulen) that exists in a predetermined radio communication area ("short-range" or local radio communication of Treyz in view of network 100 of Van Der Meulen) of said audio apparatus (14 of Treyz in view of 150/110 or 200 of Van Der Meulen) (authentication is part of link setup in BLUETOOTH specification, pages 41 notes short range nature of Bluetooth protocol) and

further comprises a system construction unit (link manager protocol in Bluetooth specification, as part of system of Treyz, that sets up and controls links between units, pages 41,191,225) for constructing a radio communication system made up of the identified portable audio apparatus (16,18 of Treyz in view of devices 120,130 of

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Van Der Meulen) and said audio apparatus (14 of Treyz) (see link manager protocol, page 41 of Bluetooth specification)

said audio apparatus (14 of Treyz) acquires said contents information (as part of mp3 file of Treyz) from the portable audio apparatus (such as 16,18 of Treyz) identified said system construction unit (transfer of files to computer 14 in Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen as applied above, col. 12, lines 24-27; col. 79, lines 3-24, 35-67 of Treyz and col. 5, lines 5-16 and col. 7, lines 9-10 of Van Der Meulen; taken in further view of transferring of files between sources and playback or rendering devices in system of Van Der Meulen, which is enabled though the networking 100 of said devices 110,120,130,180, see col. 3, lines 1-21 regarding networked components and col. 8, lines 5-33 regarding routing of contents to a selected output or rendering device in Van Der Meulen).

Regarding **Claim 9**, Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen teaches or at least collectively suggest:

An audio system (10 OF Treyz) that reproduces contents (from mp3 files) as sound a vehicle (12) (col. 63, lines 35-46 of Treyz), comprising:

a portable audio apparatus (such as a portable computer or personal computer 16,18 in Treyz in view of playback device 130 of Van Der Meulen, col. 3, lines 16-18) carried by a passenger of said vehicle (apparatuses 16,18, col. 10, lines 25-38 of Treyz; used in interior of vehicle, col. 11, lines 21-37 of Treyz; col. 79, lines 1-3 of Treyz also notes user device and types of devices); and

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an audio apparatus (computer 14 of Treyz) mounted in said vehicle (12) (col. 10, lines 22-35 of Treyz),

wherein said portable audio apparatus (such as 16 or 18 or 298 of Treyz, in view of playback device 130 of Van Der Meulen) comprises:

a storage medium for retaining contents information and its title information associated with each other (location or memory to which files are moved copied in user device, col. 79, lines 11-24 of Treyz; in view of CD or DVD in 130 of Van Der Meulen, which is original location of received material 311, col. 5, lines 9-29);

title information transmission modules for transmitting the title information (title, in digital data format, in Treyz, in view of information 321, 341 received by receiver 320 in Van Der Meulen) associated with said contents information (as part of mp3 files in Treyz or material 311 of Van Der Meulen) to said audio apparatus (14 of Treyz in view of 150, 110 of Van Der Meulen) at least by means of radio communication (RF link, Treyz. col. 79, lines 7-10) ('transmission module' suggested by circuitry of playback device 130 that transmits identification information 321 by which titles 341 are derived, col. 5, lines 24-45 of Van Der Meulen, taken in view of title display and implicit transmission of said title data for purpose of such a display in system of Treyz, col. 79, lines 18-20 and 55-57; it is further noted that the identification information 321 of Van Der Meulen may be equated to the claimed 'title information associated with said contents information', so far as is directly relates the titles derived for the system 150, 110 of Van Der Meulen, col. 5, lines

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26-34, or may directly result in knowledge at system 150,110 of title information as a result of information already being catalogued, col. 5, lines 44-48); and

contents information transmission modules (circuitry on 130 of Van Der Meulen that outputs signal to receiver 320, particularly via the external connection 220, col. 5, lines 12-26; also/alternatively, circuitry or means for connecting 130 to network 100, col. 2, line 59 - col. 3, line 18; both of these means of Van Der Heulen taken in view of means in Treyz for user devices 298 to form a wireless link 308 by which information may be downloaded to computer 14, col. 19, lines 27-46) for transmitting the contents information (as part of mp3 in Treyz or material 311 in Van Der Meulen) corresponding to the title information received from said portable audio apparatus (16,18,298 of Treyz in view of 130 of Van Der Meulen) to said audio apparatus (14 of Treyz) at least by means of radio communication (RF link 308 between user device and computer 14 in Treyz, col. 19, lines 27-43 and col. 79,, lines 7-10)(transmission of material 311, col. 5, lines 14-17 of Van Der Meulen taken in view of selection and reception of selection components according to shown title in a method of transmission in Treyz, col. 79, lines 59-62).

wherein said audio apparatus (14 of Treyz) comprises:

title information reception module (receiver 320 of Van Der Meulen, col. 5, lines 14-29 in view of circuitry 306 in user device for downloading data, col. 19, lines 40-43 in Treyz) for receiving said title information (titles of Tryez or 321 of Van Der Meulen) from

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said portable audio apparatus (130 of Van Der Meulen in view of 16,18,298 of Treyz) at least by means of radio communication (communication via local RF in Treyz, col. 79, lines 7-10, in view of network 100 or external connection of Van Der Meulen, col. 5, lines 12-14);

a storage medium (82 of Treyz in view of 110 of Van Der Meulen) for storing said title information (for display as list in Treyz or as part of catalog 300, also delayed in Van Der Meulen) received by said title information reception module (such as RF circuitry of Treyz 309 as applied above) (RAM or other buffer/storage implicit for storing title information while it is displayed in Treyz or Van Der Meulen and/or for addressing such information as a catalog 300, each according to standard display functions and database functions; substantiated by function enabled in col. 79, lines 55-60 of Treyz and col. 4, lines 1-12, col. 7, lines 28-30, and col. 9, lines 3-30)

a man-machine interface (displays 88,90,92,94 of Treyz in view of screen 250 of Van Der Meulen) for notifying titles (Figure 106 of Treyz in view of GUIs of Figures 6a-b and 7a-b of Van Der Meulen) in said vehicle (displays 88 are in vehicle in Treyz, 200 may be in vehicle in Van Der Meulen, col. 8, lines 45-48) according to said title information stored (at least buffered for display or catalogued in 300 as discussed) in said storage medium (RAM or display buffer as discussed above) (use of display to show titles in Treyz, col. 79, lines 55-57 in view of display for 250 in car in Van Der Meulen, col. 8, lines 45-48 and col. 9, lines 24-39) and

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allowing the passenger of said vehicle to select contents information to be received from said portable audio apparatus with reference to the notified titles (use of display on user device, col. 79, lines 55-60 and use of automobile computer displays to make selections, col. 65, line 38-col. 66, line 19 of Treyz, taken in view of use of display 250 in Van Der Meulen, which may be in vehicle, col. 8, lines 45-48, to control aspects of system, col. 9, line 24-59)

request information module (retriever 371 of Van Der Meulen, col. 8, lines 14-19 that controls separate storage device 120, taken in view of title based selection and indication of files for transmission in Treyz, col. 79, lines 5-7, 17-24, and 55-62 and local RF form of communication between computer 14 and user device in Treyz, col. 79, lines 7-10) for transmitting the title information corresponding to the titles (Figures 106-108 of Treyz, file availability based on list of titles, thus titles implicit in selection process of underlying file) selected by said man-machine interface (via click, display of computer, such as 88 as applied above, col. 79, lines 55-60) to said portable audio apparatus (user device of Treyz in view of 130 of Van Der Meulen) at least by means of radio communication (short range RF, col. 79, lines 7-10 and col. 19, lines 40-43 in Treyz) in order to request for transmission of contents information corresponding to the selected titles (controls of retriever 370 of Van Der Meulen result in playback of source data, col. 8, lines 12-19, in view of communication circuitry 306 and downloading of digital audio file to computer 14 in Treyz, col. 79, lines 35-36)

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control unit (such as 72 of Treyz) for receiving and reproducing said contents information (from a selected mp3 file of Treyz, in view of material 311 of Van Der Meulen) corresponding to said selected titles from said portable audio apparatus (16,18 of Treyz in view of 130 of Van Der Meulen) at least by means of radio communication (local RF wireless link of Treyz) (col. 13, lines 44-51; col. 79, lines 7-36 of Treyz) and

outputting the reproduced information as sound from the speakers (160 of Treyz) mounted in said vehicle (12 of Treyz) (col. 15, lines 20-27; col. 63, lines 45-46 of Treyz in view of playback through rendering device 380 of Van Der Meulen, col. 7, line 58-col. 8, line 12)

Regarding **Claim 18**, Treyz in view of Van Dr Meulen teaches or at least suggests:

A contents reproduction method of an audio system (part of function of system in Figure 1 of Treyz) that reproduces contents information (as part of mp3 file of Treyz) as sound in a vehicle (12 of Treyz) (col. 13, lines 44-51; col. 15, lines 19-26; col. 63, lines 35-46; col. 80, lines 15-17, all of Treyz), comprising:

a system constructing step of constructing a communication system (bringing automobile computer 14 within local RF link range; Bluetooth protocol, which is one form of local RF protocol, is noted as possible RF connection format, col. 11, lines 24-37 of Treyz; page 41 of protocol specification mentions link setup, which at least meets definition of 'system construction step') constructed of portable

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audio apparatus (user device of Treyz, col. 78, line 65-col. 79, line 3, in view of devices 16,18, col. 10, lines 25-38 of Treyz and playback device 130 of Van Der Meulen, as discussed above) carried by a passenger of said vehicle (12) (may be in interior of vehicle, col. 11, line 34-37 of Treyz) and an audio apparatus (computer 14 of Treyz) mounted in said vehicle (12 of Treyz) that performs at least radio communication (RF communication of Treyz) (col. 10, lines 22-25; col. 11, lines 21-37; col. 13, lines 12-17, all of Treyz);

a contents information transmitting step of transmitting (transferring wirelessly or downloading) contents information (as part of mp3 file) pre-stored in said portable audio apparatus (16,18) (pre-stored nature evidenced by filenames in region 1118 in Figure 106, col. 79, lines 10-24 and receipt of media 311 in Van Der Meulen) to said audio apparatus (14 of Treyz) at least by means of radio communication (local RF wireless link) (col. 79, lines 1-36 of Treyz; copying and moving is disclosed as being 'between' user device and automobile computer 14 of Treyz, which in further view of reception of audio files by computer 14 {col. 79, lines 35-36 of Treyz} and archiving files as addressed above in regards to Van Der Meulen for at least the prevention of file loss, col. 7, lines 9-15, these collective teachings at least suggest transfer of digital audio files from user device to computer such as 14 in Treyz);

an information storing step (as part of download or forming of collection of Treyz in view of storing in archive in Van Der Meulen) of storing contents information (as part of mp3 files of Treyz)

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acquired in said contents information transmitting (downloaded of Treyz or received by Van Der Meulen) step in a recording medium (such as 80, col. 13, lines 42-44 of Treyz or hard drive 110 of Van Der Meulen, col. 7, lines 9-10) of said audio apparatus (14 of Treyz in view of 150, 110 of Van Der Meulen) (as part of download, col. 79, lines 35-38; col. 64, lines 5-9 of Treyz or archiving of Van Der Meulen) and

a sound reproducing step (function of 72 and 160 of Treyz) of reproducing said contents information (part of mp3 file of Treyz) stored in said storage medium (80 of Treyz or 110 of Van Der Meulen) and outputting the reproduced information as sound from speakers (160 of Treyz or rendering device 380 of Van Der Meulen) mounted in said vehicle (12 of Treyz) (playback of mp3 files or audio clips via sound system of automobile, col. 13, lines 44-51; col. 63, lines 35-46; col. 80, lines 13-17, all of Treyz, in view of playback through rendering device of Van Der Meulen, col. 7, line 57 - col. 8, line 23)

Regarding **Claim 19**, Treyz teaches:

further comprising an erasing step of erasing said contents information stored on said storage medium (80 of Treyz) (moving file from audio computer 14 with storage 80 involves the erasure or deletion of the original copy of the file stored on the medium 80 prior to the moving of the file; col. 79, lines 17-24 of Treyz).

Regarding **Claim 21**, Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen teaches or at least suggests:

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A contents reproduction method of an audio system (part of function of system in Figure 1 of Treyz) that reproduces contents information (as part of mp3 file of Treyz) as sound in a vehicle (12 of Treyz)(col. 13, lines 44-51; col. 15, lines 19-26; col. 63, lines 35-46; col. 80, lines 15-17, all of Treyz), comprising:

a system constructing step of constructing a communication system (bringing automobile computer 14 within local RF range; Bluetooth protocol, which is one form of local RF protocol, is noted as possible RF connection format, col. 11, lines 24-37 of Treyz; page 41 of protocol specification mentions link setup, which at least meets definition of 'system construction step') constructed of portable audio apparatus (user device, col. 78, line 65-col. 79, line 3, in view of devices 16,18, col. 10, lines 25-38 of Treyz in view of playback devices 130 of Van Der Meulen) carried by a passenger of said vehicle (12)(may be in interior of vehicle, col. 11, line 34-37 of Treyz) and an audio apparatus (14 of Treyz) mounted in said vehicle (12 of Treyz) that performs at least radio communication (local RF communication)(col. 10, lines 22-25; col. 11, lines 21-37; col. 13, lines 12-17, col. 79, lines 7-10, all of Treyz);

a title information transmitting step of transmitting said title information of the contents information and its title information associated with each other (downloading of data, col. 19, lines 40-43 and implicit transmission of list of available audio in Treyz, col. 79, lines 18-20 and 55-60, taken in view of transmission of material 311,321 from playback device 130 to archive device 150,110 in Van Der

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Meulen, col. 5, lines 14-45; discussion of titles in list in Treyz as basis of selection, col. 79, lines 55-60, suggests that at least title information is transmitted as part of said informing and selecting process, as it is the basis for end processing and transmission of files, taken in further view of Van Der Meulen which expressly discloses transmission of identification info 321, col. 5, lines 24-26),

retained in said portable audio apparatus (user device of Treyz in view of playback device 130 of Van Der Meulen) beforehand to said audio apparatus (14 of Treyz in view of 150,110 of Van Der Meulen) at least by means of radio communication (local rf link, col. 79, lines 7-10 of Treyz) ('retained' considered suggested by pre-storage of transferred files in 14 prior to transmit to user device in Treyz, col. 79, lines 18-20, taken in view of teachings of Van Der Meulen which teach storage of materials 311 on playback device 130 prior to transmit for storage in 130, col. 5, lines 3-15):

an information storing step (buffering or storage implicit for storing title information while it is displayed in Treyz or Van Der Meulen and/or for addressing such information as a catalog 300, each according to standard display functions and database functions; substantiated by function enabled in col. 79, lines 55-60 of Treyz and col. 4, lines 1-12, col. 7, lines 28-30, and col. 9, lines 3-30 of Van Der Meulen) of storing title information acquired in said title information transmitting step (for subsequent presentation via display) in a storing medium (84 of Treyz in view of 110 of Van Der

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Meulen) of said audio apparatus (14 of Treyz in view of 110 for 300 as part of 150 or 200 in Van Der Meulen);

a selecting step of notifying (displaying via display in Treyz, col. 79, lines 19-21 and 57-60 in view of showing by display on 250 which may be mounted in vehicle, col. 8, lines 45-48 and col. 9, lines 24-55 of Van Der Meulen) titles (col. 79, line 56 of Treyz, col. 9, line 31) in said vehicle (12 of Treyz) according to said title information stored (at least buffered for display, as discussed above, or kept in catalog 300 of Van Der Meulen) in said storage medium (84 of Treyz in view of 110 for 300 of Van Der Meulen) and

allowing the passenger of said vehicle to select the contents information to be received from said portable audio apparatus with reference to the notified titles (selecting via click, col. 79, lines 57-60 of Treyz in view of use of display 250 in Van Der Meulen to select files from 200, which may be built into vehicle, col. 8, lines 45-48; col. 9, lines 24-55);

a request transmitting step (effect of clicking, col. 79, lines 59-61) of transmitting the title information corresponding to the titles (implicit response to click in Treyz, in view of operation of retriever 370 and control 371 thereof, which based on locator information 301 {suggested as title info in Treyz} directs playback, col. 8, lines 8-23) selected in said selecting step (click of Treyz in view of select of Van Der Meulen, col. 7, lines 55-56) to said portable audio apparatus (user device of Treyz in view of playback device 130 of Treyz, col. 9-15) at least by means of radio

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communication (local RF link in Treyz, col. 19, lines 40-43 and col. 79, lines 7-10)

for the purpose... (it is noted herein that the remainder of this clause is intended use, and thus has no bearing on the claimed method)

a contents information transmitting step of transmitting (transferring wirelessly or downloading) contents information (as part of mp3 file in Treyz or material 311 of Van Der Meulen) corresponding to the title information received from said portable audio apparatus (select of title of file results in transfer of file in Treyz, col. 79, lines 59-62, in view of playback or retrieval of file according to select in Van Der Meulen, col. 8, lines 8-23 and transfer of material 311 to collection manager and archive 110, col. 5, lines 3-16 and col. 6, lines 3-16) to said audio apparatus (14 of Treyz in view of 150,110 of Van Der Meulen, col. 7, lines 9-10 in view of col. 79, lines 35-36 of Treyz) at least by means of radio communication (local RF link, col. 19, lines 40-43 and col. 79, lines 7-10 in view of network 100 or external connection 220 of Van Der Meulen); and

a sound reproducing step (function of 72 and 160 of Treyz) of receiving and reproducing the contents information corresponding to selected titles (col. 8, lines 8-23 of Van Der Meulen, particularly reproduction from alternate location, such as 120, noting that 130 is also material source, col. 5, lines 3-16) from said portable audio apparatus (user device in view of playback device 130 of Van Der Meulen) at least by means of radio communication (local RF link, col.

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19, lines 40-43 and col. 79, lines 7-10 in view of network 100 or external connection 220 of Van Der Meulen) and

outputting the reproduced information as sound from speakers (160 of Treyz or rendering device 380 of Van Der Meulen) mounted in said vehicle (12 of Treyz) (playback of mp3 files or audio clips via sound system of automobile, col. 13, lines 44-51; col. 63, lines 35-46; col. 80, lines 13-17, all of Treyz, in view of playback through rendering device of Van Der Meulen, col. 7, line 57 - col. 8, line 23)

Regarding **Claim 22**, Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen teaches or at least suggests:

A contents reproduction method of an audio system (part of function of system in Figure 1 of Treyz) that reproduces contents information (as part of mp3 file of Treyz) as sound in a vehicle (12 of Treyz) (col. 13, lines 44-51; col. 15, lines 19-26; col. 63, lines 35-46; col. 80, lines 15-17, all of Treyz), comprising:

a system constructing step of constructing a communication system (bringing automobile computer 14 within local RF link range; Bluetooth protocol, which is one form of local RF protocol, is noted as possible RF connection format, col. 11, lines 24-37 of Treyz; page 41 of protocol specification mentions link setup, which at least meets definition of 'system construction step') constructed of portable audio apparatus (user device of Treyz, col. 78, line 65-col. 79, line 3, in view of devices 16,18, col. 10, lines 25-38 of Treyz and playback device 130 of Van Der Meulen, as discussed above) carried by a passenger of said vehicle (12) (may be in interior of vehicle, col.

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11, line 34-37 of Treyz) and an audio apparatus (computer 14 of Treyz) mounted in said vehicle (12 of Treyz) that performs at least radio communication (RF communication of Treyz) (col. 10, lines 22-25; col. 11, lines 21-37; col. 13, lines 12-17, all of Treyz);

a contents information transmitting step of transmitting (transferring wirelessly or downloading, col. 79, lines 11-24) contents information (as part of mp3 file) pre-stored in said audio apparatus (computer 14 of Treyz, 'pre-stored' evidenced by Figure 106 of Treyz) to said portable audio apparatus (user device of Treyz, col. 79, lines 1-3 in view of playback devices 130/380 of Van Der Meulen, col. 3, lines 16-21 and col. 7, line 58 - col. 8, line 33) at least by means of radio communication (RF communication of Treyz, col. 79, lines 7-10 in view of networking 100 of 150/110 and 130 in Van Der Meulen, col. 2, line 67 - col. 3, line 9); and

a sound reproducing step of receiving and reproducing the contents information (such as mp3 file in Treyz in view of material 311 in Van Der Meulen) sent in said contents information transmitting step by said portable audio apparatus at least by means of radio communication and outputting the reproduced information as sound from said portable audio apparatus (implicit use of audio file transferred to user device in Treyz, col. 79, lines 1-24, in view of playback via rendering or playback device of Van Der Meulen, col. 3, lines 16-21 and col. 7, line 58 - col. 8, line 33).

Regarding **Claim 23**, Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen teaches or at least suggests:

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A contents reproduction method of an audio system (part of function of system in Figure 1 of Treyz) that reproduces contents information (as part of mp3 file of Treyz) as sound in a vehicle (12 of Treyz)(col. 13, lines 44-51; col. 15, lines 19-26; col. 63, lines 35-46; col. 80, lines 15-17, all of Treyz), comprising:

a system constructing step of constructing a communication system (bringing automobile computer 14 within local RF link range; Bluetooth protocol, which is one form of local RF protocol, is noted as possible RF connection format, col. 11, lines 24-37 of Treyz; page 41 of protocol specification mentions link setup, which at least meets definition of 'system construction step') constructed of a plurality of portable audio apparatuses (user devices, such as 16 and 18 in Treyz, col. 10, lines 25-37 and col. 19, lines 13-45 and col. 79, lines 1-7, in view of sources of audio, 120,130 in Van Der Meulen, col. 2, line 59-col. 3, line 25) carried by passengers (RF communication may be conducted within vehicle to handheld or portable devices, which infers holding by passengers of user devices, col. 11, lines 34-37) of said vehicle and an audio apparatus (14 of Treyz in view of 110/150 of Van Der Meulen) mounted in said vehicle (col. 13, line 12-28 of Treyz) that performs at least radio communication (col. 19, lines 13-44 and col. 79, lines 1-10 of Treyz);

a contents information transmitting step of transmitting contents information (mp3 of Treyz in view of material 311 of Van Der Meulen) pre-stored in a first portable audio apparatus (location such as device 120 of Van Der Meulen, col. 8, lines 12-19 in view of one user

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device such as 16 or 18 in Treyz) to a second portable audio apparatus (renderer 380 of Van Der Meulen, col. 7, line 57 - col. 8, line 8, in view of a second or second of user devices 16,18, noting that Van Der Meulen teaches that multiple devices 120,130,380, may be part of the distributed system, col. 2, line 59 - col. 3, line 25 and col. 8, lines 5-8 and Figure 1) according to a control signal (371 of Van Der Meulen) from said audio apparatus (14 of Treyz in view of retriever 370 of Van Der Meulen which may be executed on a computing device, such as 200, col. 4, line 62-col. 5, line 3) at least by means of radio communication (communication in networking user devices in Treyz may be local RF, col 19, lines 13-44 and col. 79, lines 1-10); and

a sound reproducing step of receiving and reproducing (recording is presented in Van Der Meulen, col. 7, line 59) the contents information (mp3 files of Treyz in view of material or recording 311 of Van Der Meulen) sent in said contents information transmitting step to said second portable audio apparatus (380 of Van Der Meulen in view of 16,18, 298 of Treyz) at least by means of radio communication (local RF of Treyz) and outputting the reproduced information as sound from said second portable audio apparatus (implicit use of audio file transferred to user device in Treyz, col. 79, lines 1-24, in view of playback via rendering or playback device 380 of Van Der Meulen, col. 3, lines 16-21 and col. 7, line 58 - col. 8, line 33).

Regarding **Claim 24**, Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen teaches or at least suggests:

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An audio apparatus for a vehicle mounted in a vehicle to reproduce contents information as sound in said vehicle, comprising:

An audio apparatus (system in Figure 1 of Treyz) to reproduce contents information (as part of mp3 file of Treyz of material 311 of Van Der Meulen) as sound in a vehicle (12 of Treyz; unit may be car mounted in Van Der Meulen, col. 8, lines 45-46)(col. 13, lines 44-51; col. 15, lines 19-26; col. 63, lines 35-46; col. 80, lines 15-17, all of Treyz), comprising

a system constructing unit (link manager protocol in Bluetooth specification, as part of system of Treyz, that sets up and controls links between units, col. 11, lines 29-31) for constructing a radio communication system (Bluetooth in view of local links such as noted in col. 19, lines 13-45) constructed of a portable audio apparatus (user device, such as 16,18,29 of Treyz) carried by a passenger of said vehicle (RF communication may be conducted within vehicle to handheld or portable devices, which infers holding by passengers of user devices, col. 11, lines 34-37) and an audio apparatus (14 of Treyz in view of 110/150 or 200 of Van Der Meulen);

a reception module (306 of Treyz, col. 19, lines 27-32 and 40-44 in view of data reception by computer 14, col. 79, lines 35-36) for receiving (input of data to hard drive 110 of Van Der Meulen from separate device, such as 120 or 130, col. 5, lines 3-16 and col. 7, lines 9-22 in view of transfer of audio files to computer in Treyz, coll. 79, lines 35-36) said contents information (mp3 of Treyz or material 311/recording of Van Der Meulen) from said portable audio

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apparatus (user device such as 16,18,298 of Treyz in view of devices 120,130 of Van Der Meulen) at least by means of radio communication (local RF com, Bluetooth of Treyz and col. 79, lines 7-10 of Treyz in view of network 100 of Van Der Meulen);

a storage medium for storing said contents information received by said reception module (location, such as 80, where audio files are stored in Treyz, col. 13, lines 42-44 and col. 79, lines 18-20, in view of hard drive 110 in Van Der Meulen, col. 7, lines 9-10); and

a control unit (72 of Treyz) for reproducing said contents information stored (from mp3 file, for example in Treyz) in said storage medium (80 of Treyz in view of 110 of Van Der Meulen) and outputting the reproduced information as sound from speakers (from 160,246 of Treyz) mounted in said vehicle (12 of Treyz in view of col. 8, line 45-46) (col. 13, lines 39-51; col. 15, lines 19-26; col. 38, lines 62-63; col. 80, lines 15-17, all of Treyz in further view of rendering or playback in Van Der Meulen, col. 8, lines 45-48).

Regarding **Claim 25**, please refer above to the rejection of similar limitations found in Claims 24 and 9 pertaining to the claimed 'audio apparatus', noting that plural interfaces were cited against the claimed 'interface' in the rejection of Claim 9 above.

Regarding **Claim 28**, please refer above to the function or steps performed by the components cited with regards to the similar limitations found in Claim 24 as well as the teachings of references applied thereto.

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Regarding **Claim 29**, please refer above to the function or steps performed by the components cited with regards to the similar limitations found in Claim 25 as well as the teachings of references applied thereto.

Regarding **Claims 32-35**, please refer above to the components cited with regards to the similar limitations of Claims 1, 9, 24, and 25, respectively, as well as the teachings of references of Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen that are applied thereto.

Regarding **Claims 36-47**, please refer above to the references cited and applied to the similar limitations of the corresponding Claims 24, 25, 28, 29, 34, and 35, further noting that Treyz particularly discloses that the functions of the system may be implemented on computer 14 through the use of software loaded from a storage media (col. 18, lines 54-62), which reads on a "computer program product" and a "computer readable storage medium" that "implements the operation of the audio apparatus", "instructs the contents reproduction method", "stores program codes that implement the operation of the audio apparatus", or "stores program codes that implement the contents reproduction method" according to the respectively cited claims of 24, 25, 28, 29, and 34-35.

5. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen as applied to claim

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1 above, and further in view of Razavi et al (USPN 6362730 B2),
hereafter .

As detailed above, Treyz discloses a personal computer system for an automobile. Such a system comprises a car-mounted computer system that is able to interface to a variety of auxiliary sources and systems. Van Der Meulen discloses the cataloging and archiving of audio recordings in a central device 200 that may be mounted in a vehicle, where the catalogued materials may be locally stored on a hard disk 110 or remotely stored on a playback device 130.

Regarding Claim 3, Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen discloses that the local wireless network may abide by the Bluetooth protocol (col. 11, lines 29-31 of Treyz). As evidenced by the pages from the Bluetooth Core Specification included with this office action, such a protocol includes the detection of when a device is out of range (page 126, "out of range"). The circuitry or software, as part of this protocol, that executes this polling and link supervision would read on "a detection unit for detecting that said portable audio apparatus has been carried out of the vehicle" because, in the context of portable devices in an automobile, the detection of 'out of range' would be one form of detection a device "carried out of a vehicle".

However, Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen does not clearly teach or suggest:

- said control unit includes an erasure module for erasing information stored in said storage medium according to the detection said portable audio apparatus has been carried out of the vehicle.

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However, other in-vehicle systems were known in the art at the time of invention as evidenced by Razavi. Razavi discloses an in-vehicle network that may couple to devices that may be upgraded or reconfigured over time. Wireless connections are one form of interface noted by Razavi (col. 2, lines 18-45; col. 3, lines 53-57).

Specifically regarding Claim 3, Razavi, when considered in view of the teachings of Treyz noted or applied above, teaches or at least suggests:

wherein said audio apparatus (in vehicle computing platform 22 and audio components such as 36 of Razavi, col. 7, lines 47-50 and col. 8, lines 21-50, in view of automobile computer 14 of Treyz) further comprises a detection unit detecting that said portable audio apparatus has been carried out of said vehicle (means that determine that lease has not been renewed within predetermined period in Razavi, col. 9, lines 61-64, in view of timer and interpreted meaning of device according to Bluetooth protocol in Treyz) , and

said control unit (hardware 41 of Razavi, col. 8, lines 30-50 in view of 72 of Treyz as applied above) includes an erasure module for erasing information stored in said storage medium (means that 'removes the information associated with the device', col. 9, lines 61-65)

according to the detection by said detection unit (leasing determining means, as applied above) that said portable audio apparatus has been carried out of the vehicle (information is removed after lease is not renewed, affording the assumption that said device

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has been disconnected, col. 9, lines 61-65 of Razavi, in view of the resetting of connection for an out of range device as part of the Bluetooth protocol denoted in Treyz).

To one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to incorporate the discovery-and-join protocol in the system of Razavi as part of the interconnection operations of the computer 14 and handheld or portable computing devices (16,18) in the system of Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen. The motivation behind such a modification would have been that such a protocol, including the 'leasing feature', would have enabled such peripheral devices in the system of Treyz to be installed or de-installed automatically, avoiding the necessity of a user to perform a complicated connection or disconnection procedure, as is noted by Ravazi. Van Der Meulen also discloses a preference for displaying only accessible tracks, which would exclude tracks on a device carried out of range in Razavi or according to the Bluetooth protocol, col. 9, lines 45-47.

6. **Claims 8, 26, 27, and 30-31** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen as applied above, and in further view of Huemann et al (USPN 5661811 A), hereafter "Huemann".

As detailed above, Treyz discloses a personal computer system for an automobile. Such a system comprises a car-mounted computer system that is able to interface to a variety of auxiliary sources and

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systems. Van Der Meulen discloses the cataloging and archiving of audio recordings in a central device 200 that may be mounted in a vehicle, where the catalogued materials may be locally stored on a hard disk 110 or remotely stored on a playback device 130.

Regarding **Claim 8**, Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen teach or at least suggest:

said audio apparatus (14 of Treyz) further comprises a second man-machine interface (230,244) (col. 17, lines 28-58; col. 20, line 62 - col. 22, line 45)

when the plurality of contents information pieces (multiple filenames 1112, shown in Figure 106) is received from a plurality of portable apparatuses (such as 16 and 18) identified by said system construction unit (protocols in Treyz as applied above) (see col. 79, lines 1-20 of Treyz), and

said control unit (72 of Treyz) outputs at least one contents information piece (file) from among the plurality of contents information (such as in 1112) whose simultaneous reproduction is instructed from said speakers (col. 13, lines 44-51; col. 15, lines 20-27; in further view of col. 63, lines 35-52, and col. 80. lines 11-17 and 57-66, which explicitly detail playback of mp3 file through vehicle sound system of Treyz)

While the system of Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen discloses the storage and transfer of multiple audio files between the automobile computer and personal, portable computing devices, and Van Der Meulen

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teaches multiple output systems 380 in a system, col. 8, lines 5-8,

Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen do not clearly teach or suggest:

- that the second man-machine interface can instruct simultaneous reproduction of a plurality of contents of information pieces when the plurality of contents information pieces is received from a plurality of portable audio apparatuses identified by said system construction unit
- said control unit, when simultaneous reproduction is instructed by said second man-machine interface, outputs at least one contents information piece from among the plurality of contents information whose simultaneous reproduction is instructed from said speakers and remotely controls said plurality of portable audio apparatuses so that other contents information pieces are reproduced by at least one of the plurality of portable audio apparatuses identified by said system construction unit

However, the central control of the playback of a plurality of media and media sources is known in the art, as is evidenced by the teachings of Huemann.

Specifically regarding **Claim 8**, Huemann, in view of the teachings of Treyz and Van Der Meulen, teaches or at least suggests:

- that the second man-machine interface (239 or 244 of Treyz in view of 30 of Huemann, col. 56-67) can instruct simultaneous reproduction of a plurality of contents of information pieces (media operative at the same time, col. 2, lines 29-33 of

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Huemann in view of plurality of file media in Treyz, Figure 106; 30 may override control of rear seat, thus affecting simultaneous reproduction, col. 2, lines 56-67; col. 4, lines 12-23) when the plurality of contents information pieces (as part of mp3 files in Treyz) is received from a plurality of portable audio apparatuses (such as 16,18 in Treyz) identified by said system construction unit (multiple media received in 14 of Treyz, in view of networked multiple sources, such as 16 and 18, col. 79, lines 1-20 of Treyz; in further view of a plurality of media available in the system of Huemann, col. 2, lines 20-27)

- said control unit (32 of Huemann in view of 72 of Treyz), when simultaneous reproduction is instructed by said second man-machine interface (30 overrides rear seat control, col. 4, lines 12-23), outputs at least one contents information piece (as part of mp3 file) from among the plurality of contents information whose simultaneous reproduction is instructed from said speakers (playback of mp3 file through vehicle sound system, as cited above in Treyz, in view of selection of media for driver in Huemann implemented via 32, col. 2, lines 56-62) and remotely controls said plurality of portable audio apparatuses (copy function available to portable audio apparatuses 16,18 in Treyz, in view of override and other control by 32 in Huemann that is responsive to front controls 30, col. 2, line 56 - col. 3,

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line 19 and lines 57-62) so that other contents information pieces ('other media' in Huemann, col. 4, lines 12-23 in view of multiple files available for copying or moving and playback in Treyz, Figure 106) are reproduced by at least one of the plurality of portable audio apparatuses (16,18 in Treyz in view of rear seat controller/headphone access 34 of Huemann, col. 3, lines 38-67) identified by said system construction unit (networking protocol, as applied above in view of Treyz, also considered in view of the multiple rendering devices available in the system of Van Der Meulen, col. 8, lines 5-8)

To one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to implement the playback, override, and media selection controls of the primary and secondary audio portions of the system of Huemann, as part of the automobile and portable audio portions of the audio system of Treyz in view of Van Der Meulen. Such a modification would involve the driver controls 30 of Huemann being implemented with the driver interface 230 of Treyz and the secondary or rear seat passenger controls 34 of Huemann as part of the portable audio apparatus interface of Treyz discussed in column 79 and shown in Figure 106. The motivation behind such a modification would have been that such controls would have enabled the great variety of programming available to vehicle occupants to be accessible without driver intervention, as is noted by Huemann. The inclusion of such controls would have also enabled the portable

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equipment users to access the same or different media being enjoyed by the driver of the vehicle; such choice would have enabled the resolution of differences in media preferences between the driver and other passengers, as is also noted by Huemann. Such a control system would have also enabled the multiple rendering devices in the system of Van Der Meulen to be used at the same time without media content conflicts.

Regarding **Claims 26, 27, and 30-31** please refer above to the rejection of similar limitations found in Claims 8 and the manner in which the references were applied thereto.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. **Claims 2, 4, 6-7, 10-17, and 20** are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claim 2 recites two main limitations of "a detection unit" and an "erasure module" in the control unit "for erasing information stored in said storage medium according to the detection that a passenger has gotten off a vehicle". As applied above, Treyz is the closest prior art made of record herein. Treyz discloses the use of passenger sensors that detect when a user is in a vehicle (col. 40, lines 14-

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42). Thus, with regards to any such chronological indication, these sensors and the indication they provide read on a passenger sensor or "a detection unit". The nature of the utilized memories, such as the hard disk and RAM, as well as the "moving" of audio files (as compared with 'copying') mentioned in Tryez teach or at least infer the presence of an erasure module (col. 13, lines 42-44; col. 79, lines 11-24). However, Treyz nor any of the other prior art of record, teach or suggest such an "erasure module for erasing information stored in said storage medium according to the detection by said detection unit that a passenger of said vehicle has gotten off the vehicle". As such, Claim 2, as well as Claims 6 and 10-17, which depend upon Claim 2 and thus incorporate each and every limitation thereof, are hereby indicated as allowable, wherein each and every of the limitations of Claims 1 and 2 are considered as a whole.

Claim 4 recites two main limitations of "an detection unit for detecting ignition OFF of said vehicle" and an "erasure module" in the control unit "for erasing information stored in said storage medium according to the detection by said detection unit of ignition OFF of said vehicle". As applied above, Treyz is the closest prior art made of record herein. Treyz discloses the use of passenger sensors that detect when a user is in a vehicle, one of which is an ignition sensor (col. 40, lines 14-42). Thus, this sensors "a detection unit for detecting ignition OFF of said vehicle". The nature of the utilized memories, such as the hard disk and RAM, as well as the "moving" of audio files (as compared with 'copying') mentioned in Tryez teach or

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at least infer the presence of an erasure module (col. 13, lines 42-44; col. 79, lines 11-24). However, Treyz nor any of the other prior art of record, teach or suggest such an "erasure module for erasing information stored in said storage medium according to the detection by said detection unit of ignition OFF of said vehicle". As such, Claim 4 is hereby indicated as allowable, wherein each and every of the limitations of Claims 1 and 4 are considered as a whole.

Claim 7 recites two main limitations of "a checking module" and an "erasure module" in the control unit for, "when the erasure is not confirmed by said checking module, erases information stored in said storage medium again". As applied above, Treyz is the closest prior art made of record herein. As also detailed above, the nature of the utilized memories, such as the hard disk and RAM, as well as the "moving" of audio files (as compared with 'copying') mentioned in Treyz teach or at least imply the presence of an erasure module or code/circuitry for deleting files (col. 13, lines 42-44; col. 79, lines 11-24). Razavi also discloses the deletion of information concerning a particular network device. However, Treyz nor any of the other prior art of record, teach or suggest such a "checking module for checking whether information stored in said storage medium has been erased by said erasure module or not" or "erasure module, when the erasure is not confirmed by said checking module, erases information stored in said storage medium again". Such a function of the erasure module is considered a functional limitation, in that the "for" imparts structural limitations on the erasure module that meet

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the requirements of the 'when' clause in the above limitations. As such, Claim 7 is hereby indicated as allowable, wherein each and every of the limitations of Claims 1, 3, and 7 are considered as a whole.

Claim 20 recites a limitations of "a re-erasing step of checking whether said contents information stored in said storage medium has been erased or not in said erasing step and re-erasing said contents information if the erasure is not confirmed". As applied above, Treyz is the closest prior art made of record herein. As also detailed above, the nature of the utilized memories, such as the hard disk and RAM, as well as the "moving" of audio files (as compared with 'copying') mentioned in Treyz teach or at least imply the presence of an erasure module or code/circuitry for deleting files (col. 13, lines 42-44; col. 79, lines 11-24). Razavi also discloses the deletion of information concerning a particular network device. However, Treyz nor any of the other prior art of record, teach or suggest such a "a re-erasing step for checking whether information stored in said storage medium has been erased or not in said erasing step" and "re-erasing said contents information if the erasure is not confirmed". As such, Claim 20 is hereby indicated as allowable, wherein each and every of the limitations of Claims 18 and 19 are considered as a whole.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Graham

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whose telephone number is 571-272-7517. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on 571-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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March 20, 2006


SINH TRAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER